vants as per the following type-wise details:

Type III	04
Type IV	58
Type IV (Special)	11
Type V	98
Type VI	22
Type VII	03
Type VIII	11

(b) Such allotments have been made in the past in keeping with the need to promote art, culture, literature, social service and to provide support to the freedom fighters as also to give protection to high security persons keeping in view the threat perception emanating from the public service rendered by them in the past. Further allotments have also been made to certain dignitaries, Such as, ex-president, ex-Vice President, ex-Prime Minister and their spouses after their demise.

(c) Allotment in the categories of eminent artists, freedom fighters, accredited Press Correspondents, Social Workers, etc. dates back to late 50s and 60s. Such allotments have been made generally to non-house owning persons on leave and licence basis for a limited period subject to review on payment of prescribed rates of licence fee.

(d) and (e) As per the revised guidelines, allotments made to private persons will be valid only upto the current allotment period. Any proposal for extension in the present allotment period will not be considered exception national interest or to meet international obligations with the approval of the Cabinet Committee on Accommodation (CCA).

Decline in foreign trade

*210. SHRI VEDPRAKASH P. GOYAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated loss to exports and imports due to the damage caused by natural calamities at different ports during the last three years;

(b) the kind of relief Government gave to exporters/importers due to unforeseen natural calamities;

(c) whether these are sufficient; and

(d) if not, what other arrangements Government propose to make?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE (SHRI RAMAKRISHNA HEGDE): (a) During the last three years, no major loss to exports and imports have been reported by the Major Ports due to damage caused by natural calamities except the recent cyclone that hit Kandla on 9.6.1998. The total damage caused to the export/import cargo at Kandla Port has been estimated at Rs. 46.02 crores approximately.

(b) to (d) Since the cyclone had affected Kandla Port, all measures on war-footing were taken by that Port for early restoration of operations and the same were fully resumed within a month.

The Port Trust has granted 80% relief on demurrages on cargo for the period from 9.6.98 to 2.7.98.

Other measures included expediting assessment of damages and settlements of claims by insurance companies and advising financial institutions to favourable consider the requests of exporters/importers for cash credit limits, packing limits, export credit and working capital. Apart from restoring facilities at Kandla Port, arrangements were also made at other ports to handle cargo diverted from the Kandla Port.

Promotion of Small Scale Sector

*211. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to promote Small Scale Sector during Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the guidelines issued to the District Industry Centres in this regard; and